

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AF-10 DRC-01 /159 W

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R 161645Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5259

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T BEIRUT 13250

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN PALESTINIAN LEADERS AND LEBANESE

FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL SADAQA

1. SECRETARY GENERAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NEGIB SADAQA, GAVE DCM NOVEMBER 16 FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF MEETING HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAD WITH FEDAYEEN LEADERS AT LATTER'S INITIATIVE NOVEMBER 12.

2. ABOU IYAD, HEAD OF BLACK SEPTEMBER AND MEMBER FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER AT HIS HOME. ABOU LUTF, MEMBER OF PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE; ABOU ZAIM, CHIEF MILITARY ADVISOR TO ARAFAT; AND TOUFIQ SAFADI MET SADAQA AT HIS HOME. ALTHOUGH MEETINGS WERE SEPARATE, SADAQA EXPLAINED SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS EXACTLY SAME.

3. OSTENSIBLY PALESTINIANS CALLED FOR INFORMATION ON SISCO VISIT LEBANON. SADAQA BRIEFED THEM IN GENERAL TERMS ON SISCO'S CONVERSATION INCLUDING PART CONCERNING PALESTINIAN. PALESTINIAN LEADERS WERE SKEPTICAL THAT

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USG COULD BRING ABOUT SETTLEMENT BUT CLEARLY RECOGNIZED

IMPORTANCE USG IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI EQUATION. THEY COMMENTED THAT EUROPE HAD GIVEN PALESTINIAN "GOOD WORDS"; THE RUSSIANS HAD GIVEN THEM ARMS BUT THE UNITED STATES WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT COULD GIVE THEM BACK THEIR TERRITORY.

4. THEY INDICATED PALESTINIANS WOULD PROBABLY DECIDE ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE CONFERENCE AFTER IMPENDING SUMMIT MEETING IN ALGIERS. FOUR LEADERS PERSONALLY SAW ADVANTAGE IN PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE PROVIDED THEY HAD NO RELATIONS WITH JORDANIAN DELEGATION NOR HAD TO MENTION KING HUSSEIN'S NAME.

5. INDICATED THEY WERE THINKING OF GOVERNMENT IN EXILE BUT HAD MADE NO DECISION. RE REFERENDUM TO DETERMINE FUTURE WEST BANK THEY SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR JORDAN TO CARRY OUT SUCH REFERENDUM AS PLO REPRESENTED PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THEY WOULD, HOWEVER, BE WILLING TO ACCEPT REFERENDUM UNDER INTERNATIONAL OR ARAB AUSPICES. IN ANY SETTLEMENT THEY MAINTAINED THE RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO BE REPATRIATED MUST BE ACCEPTED. THIS WAS SACRED TO THEM AS PALESTINIAN COULD NOT GIVE UP RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR LAND. ACCORDING TO SADAQA, HOWEVER, FEDAYEEN LEADERS RECOGNIZED FULLY THAT ISRAELI WOULD NOT PERMIT LARGE INFLUX OF PALESTINIANS INTO ISRAEL AND EQUALLY REALIZED THAT UNITED STATES WOULD NOT AND COULD NOT FORCE ISRAELIS TO DO SO. THEY CONSEQUENTLY WOULD ACCEPT SYMBOLIC REPATRIATION. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT AN AGREED SYMBOLIC NUMBER OF PALESTINIANS WHO SO DESIRED WOULD RETURN TO ISRAEL EACH YEAR. THEY WOULD NOT GIVE NUMBER BUT SADAQA THOUGH THEY HAD IN MIND FEW THOUSAND PEOPLE.

6. REFERRING TO THEIR STATEMENT THAT UNITED STATES ONLY NATION WHICH COULD GET THEM BACK THEIR TERRITORY, SADAQA ASKED IF THEY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH U.S. OFFICIALS IN BEIRUT OR ELSEWHERE. THEY SAID THEY HAD NOT BUT INDICATED THEY WOULD NOT BE ADVERSE TO SUCH CONTACT. THEY EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT AS THEY HAD NOTHING TO OFFER, THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THE  
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INITIATIVE TO GET A DIALOUGE STARTED.

COMMENT: IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHY MEETING WERE SOUGHT. SADAQA SPECULATED THAT IN ADDITION TO SEEKING INFORMATION ON THE SISCO VISIT, THE PALESTINIAN LEADERS MAY HAVE HAD TWO OTHER OBJECTIVES IN SEEKING MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIMSELF. FIRST, THEY WANTED THE SUPPORT AND A DIALOUGE WITH THE MINISTER

ON THE EVE OF IMPENDING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS; SECOND,  
THEY MAY HAVE THOUGHT THAT SADAQA WOULD ARRANGE A  
MEETING BETWEEN THIS EMBASSY AND THEMSELVES. SADAQA,  
OF COURSE, MADE NO SUCH OFFER. THE FEDAYEEN LEADERS  
MIGHT ALSO HAVE ASSUMED THAT THEIR REMARKS  
WOULD IN ANY CASE BE PASSED ON THE THE AMERICANS.  
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## Message Attributes

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